

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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R 060340Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3423

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4438

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING TEL DATED 5 APR 74 SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON DANANG
NHA TRANG CAN THO DAXX INFO DAO SAIGON CG USSAG NKP THAI
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 161

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJ: SPECIAL DAILY SITREP MR 3 APRIL 4, 1974

1. MR 3 MILITARY INCIDENTS PERSISTED AT A HIGH RATE WITH 56
REPORTED BY MR 3 G-2 FOR 24 HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 APRIL 5.
NVA/VC PRESSURE WAS SOMEWHAT LIGHTER NORTH OF ROUTE 1 IN HAU
NGHIA, BUT A MAJOR NEW DIVERSIONARY ATTACK WAS OPENED IN DUC THANH
DISTRICT OF PHUOC TUY WHERE AN RF BN, SINCE REINFORCED BY 4
BNS FROM THE 18TH ARVN DIV, TOOK SOME 500 ROUNDS OF ABF THE
AFTERNOON OF APRIL 4 AND ARE STILL UNDER ATTACK APRIL 5. A RF
COMPANY OUTPOST AT A BRIDGE AT CHI LINH ON LTL 13 (NOT TO BE
CONFUSED WITH QL 13) BETWEEN CHON THANH AND DON XOAI WAS OVERRUN
AND IS PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN LOST TO THE VC.

2. ON APRIL 4, THERE WERE 13 GROUND CONTACTS, 27 ATTACKS BY FIRE
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(FOUR OVER 20 ROUNDS), AND TWO COMBINED ABF AND GROUND ATTACKS.

GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AT 84 (31 KIA, 27 WIA AND 26 MIA) WHILE ENEMY LOSSES WERE SET AT 42 KIA, THREE CIA AND ONE RALLIER FOR THE PAST 24 HOURS. HAU NGHIA WAS AGAIN THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE WITH 15 INCIDENTS. OTHER PROVINCES EXPERIENCING ACTIVITY WERE BINH LONG (12 INCIDENTS), LONG KHANH 6, BIEN HOA 5 AND TAY NINH, PHUOC LONG AND PHUOC TUY 4 EACH. VNAF FLEW 49 COMBAT SORTIES AND 88 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP SORTIES AGAINST COMMUNIST POSITIONS IN PHUOC TUY, TAY NINH, BINH LONG, HAU NGHIA AND BIEN HOA.

3. AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT INDICATES THAT THE 5TH NVA DIV FORWARD CP MAY HAVE MOVED ON APRIL 4 FROM THE ANGEL'S WING AREA OF CAMBODIA TO THE STRAIGHT EDGE WOODS AREA JUST INSIDE TAY NINH (VIC XT 154351). OTHER INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT THE DIVISION HQ MIGHT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER ELEMENTS. RF UNITS TO THE EAST IN THE BEN CAU AREA OF TAY NINH (XT 235300) HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR POSSIBLE ATTACK.

4. ON APRIL 4 AT 0700 HOURS, THE 215TH UF'O AND 322ND ARTILLERY PLATOON AT CHI LINH, BINH TUY PROVINCE (CHI HOA BRIDGE OVER THE SONG BE RIVER) REPORTED HEARING TRACKED VEHICLES A SHORT DISTANCE SE OF THEIR BASE. LATER DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, THE CAMP CAME UNDER THREE ENEMY SHELLINGS FROM 107MM ROCKET, 105 HOWITZER AND 82MM MORTAR (OVER 100 ROUNDS TOTAL REPORTED). AT 050230 THE BASE AGAIN CAME UNDER HEAVY ENEMY SHELLING WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL 0320 HOURS WHEN A COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED AND RADIO COMMUNICATION WAS LOST WITH THE BASE.

5. IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE ACTION CONCENTRATED IN DUC THANH DISTRICT. A COMBINED COMMUNIST ABF (OVER 500 ROUNDS) AND GROUND ATTACK AGAINST THE 2ND AND 3RD COMPANIES, 326TH RF BN, LOCATED 5 KMS NORTH OF THE DISTRICT CAPITAL RESULTED IN GVN LOSSES OF 3 KIA, 5 WIA AND 20 MIA WITH NVA/VC CASUALTIES UNKNOWN. THE ATTACKING FORCE IS THE NVA 33RD INDEPENDENT REGT. ACCORDING TO PHUOC TUY SECTOR, TWO POSITIONS ON ROUTE 2 HELD BY THE 372ND RF FARTHER NORTH IN DUC THANH WERE TEMPORARILY CUT OFF BY ELEMENTS OF THE 33RD APRIL 5 MORNING. THE FIRST POSITION IS AT XA BANG OUTPOST (YS 461835). THE SECOND POSITION IS AT CAN MY OUTPOST (YS 455846). TWO BNS OF THE 18TH DIV HAVE UNDERTAKEN RELIEF OF THESE UNITS FROM THE NORTH (LONG KHANH) AND ELEMENTS OF TWO FROM THE SOUTH.

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6. IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE THE ENEMY PRESSURE IS SOMEWHAT LIGHTER BUT CONTINUES AGAINST FRIENDLY UNITS IN THE DUC HUE, TRANG BANG AND CU CHI AREAS WITH MINOR ABF'S AND PROBING GROUND CONTACTS. VNAF HELICOPTERS FLYING MEDEVAC AND RESUPPLY MISSIONS INTO DUC HUE RANGER OUTPOST ARE STILL BEING FIRED ON BY AA MACHINE GUNS. ONE GUNSHIP WAS STRUCK IN THE ROTOR AND MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT DUC HUE SUB-SECTOR.

7. TONLE CHAM RANGER CAMP RECEIVED 65 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR FIRE DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS WITH NEGATIVE CASUALTIES.

8. IN TAY NINH THE 161ST RF CO MADE CONTACT WITH AN ENEMY FORCE 11 KMS SE OF PHU KHUONG. PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THIS ACTION LIST RVNAF CASUALTIES AT 13 KIA, 2 WIA WITH 11 NVA/VC KILLED.

9. MR 3 HQ NOW BELIEVES THAT THE NVA/VC OBJECTIVE WITH THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN, APART FROM AN AIM OF EXPANDING COMMUNIST CONTROL LOCALLY IN "CONTESTED AREAS" WHEREVER POSSIBLE, WAS TO INTERDICT ROUTE 1 IN THE TRANG BANG AREA AND ISOLATE TAY NINH. IN THIS ANALYSIS, STRONG ATTACKS ELSEWHERE IN WIDELY-SEPARATED DUC HUE, PHUOC TUY, AND CHI LINH ARE DESIGNED TO SPLIT GVN FORCES AND WEAKEN THE DEFENSE IN HAU NGHIA AND TAY NINH. THE CORPS HQ HAS MAINTAINED A STRONG CONCENTRATION OF FORCES IN THE HAU NGHIA AREA AND IS VERY CONFIDENT THAT IT CAN PREVENT INTERDICTION OF ROUTE 1. A HIGHER SCALE OF NVA/VC ACTIVITY IS, HOWEVER, EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME AND IN THE EASTERN AREA OF THE REGION HARASSMENT OF THE RESETTLEMENT AREAS MAY WELL CONTINUE BEYOND THE PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OF OTHER MILITARY ACTION.

PETERS
UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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